

Northeast Region Biologists Conference

Working across landscapes to conserve the nature of America

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold a conference in Baltimore, Maryland, from February 14 to 18, 2011, for the agency's biologists working in the Northeast Region. For the first time, biologists working for each Service resource program – including the National Wildlife Refuge System, Ecological Services, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Science Applications – will come together to share ideas and techniques that cross administrative and professional disciplines as well as geographic boundaries in the region.

These are challenging times for wildlife conservation. Scientific and management decisions are complicated by habitat loss, climate change, development, invasive species and a host of other threats. To effectively meet its mission in the 21st century, the Service has taken a leadership role in reinforcing partnerships within the conservation community to protect biological resources on a landscape level.



The Northeast Region Biologists Conference presents an unprecedented opportunity for scientific experts within the organization to enhance their collective knowledge and build a shared vision to fulfill the Service's wildlife conservation mission in the years ahead.

Conference goals and objectives

The conference's overriding goal is to *"work across programs to enhance our ability to fulfill the Service's mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American public."*

The conference objectives to reach this goal include:

- To exchange information and experiences related to current resource management and conservation issues
- To provide a high quality learning experience for a variety of resource issues, management challenges and models, and professional skills

- To provide opportunities for networking and professional development

- To enhance communication skills and techniques

Conference themes

The conference will focus on three specific themes:

- Managing fish and wildlife resources on a landscape scale in a changing climate
- Energy development and fish and wildlife conservation
- The state of natural resources and wildlife conservation in the 21st century

The Northeast Region uses the strategic habitat conservation (SHC) framework to work with partners to develop species population objectives and provide landscapes capable of sustaining them. The conference will equip biologists with new tools, ideas and resources for incorporating SHC into their work. Ideally, conference





The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency on Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The hotel is centrally located near many restaurants and exciting things to do in the "Charm City."

participants will leave understanding how their work fits into the framework and how it can be used to improve conservation planning and management decisions.

Featured speakers

In addition to Service leaders, numerous experts, both from within and outside the agency, will address the conference during the week. In addition, keynote speakers currently include Joanna Prukop and Jim Martin.

Joanna Prukop is the director of Business for Wildlife with Freedom to Roam, a coalition of business, government, and non-profit interests to enhance awareness and conservation of wildlife corridors. She formerly served as the Secretary of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources for the State of New Mexico. In July, Prukop was appointed to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council established to advise the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture about hunting and shooting sports and their relationship with natural resource conservation.

Following a 30-year career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jim Martin is now the Conservation Director for the Berkley Conservation Institute,

a branch of Pure Fishing, one of the largest tackle companies in the world and a leader in conservation advocacy. Martin is Chairman of the Board of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and serves as science advisor to both the Doris Duke Foundation and the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association.



Recognition, networking and fun!

Social events and free time during the week will provide occasions for networking, relaxation and fun. These opportunities will include a reception at the National Aquarium at Baltimore, a poster session reception, and an evening of *Region 5's Got Talent!*

For more information

www.fws.gov/northeast/bioconference

Contact

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